

DETAILED ACTION***Reasons for Allowance***

1. Claims 1-32 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

For independent claim 1, the prior art fails to show alone or in combination "A method for providing improved GTP path integrity assurance in a UMTS/GPRS network, the method comprising: defining a path based on a first node IP address, a second node IP address and a UDP port number; receiving, at a first node, a first GTP message from a second node; extracting one or more of: the first node IP address, the second node IP address and the UDP Port number, from the first GTP message; determining an operational state of the path based on the first received message; and storing the operational state of the path in a path integrity table, in association with the path definition and a time stamp related to a time the first GTP message was received." The prior art, Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al. (U.S. Patent 7,159,035) disclose "a unified routing scheme" that uses a "routing table maintained by a first one of the nodes of the computer network may be updated in response to receiving one or more of the update messages." (*See abstract*). The prior art disclose as a routing table update message that includes a source and destination address (*see figure 6*). However, the prior art does not disclose a GPRS tunneling protocol (GTP) message that further includes a port number and timestamp used to determine the operational state of a link. Independent claims 15 and 24 are allowable because they are similar to claim 1. Dependent claims 2-14, 16-23, and 25-32 are allowable because they depend on the allowed claims.

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Conclusion

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BEN H. LIU whose telephone number is (571)270-3118. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00AM to 6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on (571)272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Ricky Ngo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
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